

III. Remarks

A. Originally presented claims 32-34, 47, 49, 50, 52-54, 56 and 57 and amended claims 30, 31, 35-39, 43-46, 48 and 51 and new claim 58 are in the application. The amended and new claims are intended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

As noted in the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 31, 2003, the continuation as filed includes the minor corrections to the figures, specification and abstract that were required in the parent application. The claims that are indicated to be "cancelled" herein reflect claims cancelled or otherwise not elected, after a requirement for restriction, for examination in the parent case. Also noted is that the reason for filing the present application was the inability of the inventor (because of telephone interruptions) to participate in the interview which led to the allowance in the parent application and the inability to comment on and correct the allowed claims before payment of the issue fee because of the inaccessibility of the application file in the Patent Office records.

B. *Interview summary:* In the telephone interviews by applicant's counsel and the Examiner on June 4 and June 10, 2004, the matter discussed concerned the Strom reference, United States Patent 4,202,568. While the earlier allowance was based on the difference that the flange forming the joint "does not transversely extend into a crest," counsel and the Examiner agreed that the language defining the flange as extending "from the valley of the corrugation in the pipe immediately preceding the end [such that] the end portion of the flange does not substantially extend along or parallel to the pipe length" similarly distinguishes the claimed subject

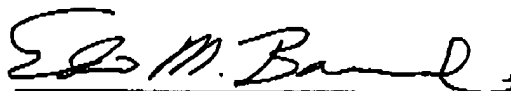
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matter over Strom. Thus the claims are accordingly clarified. Matter relating to the relationship of the clamp to the pipes that is deleted from claim 31 in this amendment is subject matter addressed in dependent claim 36; hence the deletion eliminates a redundancy. Similarly, new claim 58 relates to a specified embodiment including a gasket in the system of claim 41. In summary, a range of claim that define various embodiments of the invention is presented, all including the limitation concerning the flange, as discussed above that distinguishes the subject matter of the claims over Strom.

Applicant requests the foregoing amendment be entered and that this case be forthwith passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this Supplemental Amendment is being filed by facsimile to **703-746-3661**, ATTENTION: Art Unit 3679, Examiner James M. Hewitt [Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on June 14, 2004.



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